

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, mailed **July 27, 2006** (“the Action”) in which claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson et al. (US Patent 6,452,809 – “Jackson”) in view of Gallagher et al. (US Patent 5,971,804).

Current Status of Claims:

With this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19 and 21-26 remain pending. Claims 1, 12 and 19 are amended as presented above. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 1, as currently amended, states:

“A modular server system comprising:
a midplane having...a plurality of blade interfaces...;
a server blade inserted into one of the plurality of blade interfaces...; and
a plurality of switch blades to perform network switching between the server blade and any number of other server blades
inserted into the plurality of blade interfaces, wherein the plurality of switch blades are *inserted into one* of the plurality of blade interfaces on the midplane.”

Emphasis added.

Jackson fails to describe the elements cited and emphasized in claim 1 above. Jackson fails to teach or suggest a plurality of switch blades *inserted into one* interface *on the midplane* as cited above for claim 1. Jackson discloses a cabinet that accommodates engine blades in a sub-chassis, as well as rack mounted network switches and disk drives. See col. 5, lines 1 - 4. Jackson also discloses that the cabinet includes interface cards to manage input/output (I/O)

communications for processors on the engine blades with communication switches. See col. 7, lines 20 – 27. Jackson includes no description of a plurality of switch blades inserted in one interface. In fact the two portions of Jackson mentioned above are the only parts in Jackson referring to network switches or communication cards. Therefore, Jackson does not teach or suggest the above emphasized portions of currently amended claim 1 and a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not supported by Jackson.

Applicants submit that Gallagher was not cited by the Action to cure Jackson's above stated deficiencies. Further, Gallagher does not cure the above stated deficiencies of Jackson. Gallagher describes modules (28) in a chassis (200) that couple to a backplane (200). See Fig. 7 and Col. 11, lines 17-24. These modules (28) may include redundant network cards (113a and 113b) inserted in individual slots on a module's motherboard (68). See Fig. 7 and Col. 11, lines 17-24. Consequently this description in Gallagher fails to teach or suggest switch blades inserted into one interface on the midplane as cited above for claim 1. Therefore, Gallagher and does not teach or suggest the above emphasized portions of currently amended claim 1. As a result, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not supported by Gallagher or Jackson either in combination or alone. Thus, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 12 and 19 also include elements similar to a plurality of switch blades inserted into one interface on the midplane as emphasized in claim 1 above. Also, claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15-17, and 21-26 depend from one of independent claims 1, 12 and 19. Thus, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims of these claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19 and 21-26 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. ***The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.***

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,
Bottom et al.

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